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knife of a somewhat different construction made (but which he does not explain). The advantage of this is that it can be moved along its whole length, so that different portions can be used for cutting.

Professor R. Kossmann writes:¹ "Many to whom the turning back of the micrometer-screw of the microtome is an annoying delay, will be thankful to me for pointing out to them that in two or three seconds it can be turned back its whole length by using a kind of fiddlebow, such as is used for drilling holes. The loop of the bow-string (made of strong silk cord, waxed or rosined) is passed round the smooth neck of the screw, and the bow is moved alternately to the left with stretched, and to the right with slackened cord."—*Fourn. Roy. Microscopical Society*, iii, 298.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The new antiseptic, boro glyceride, may furnish us with another preservative. From an utter absence of smell, taste (except a slightly sweet one) and innocuous qualities, it has been suggested that fresh fish preserved by it may be sent long distances in good condition. The boro-glyceride should be mixed with many times its bulk of warm water, and cloths wet with the solution should be put in and wrapped around the eviscerated fish. This is certainly a good field for experiment.—*Scientific and Literary Gossip*.

— Mr. John Young, at a recent meeting of the Glasgow Natural History Society, gave some interesting facts in connection with *Callinassa turneriana*, a macrurous crustacean found on the west coast of Africa. It is said to occur periodically once in four or seven years in large numbers. "With the natives of the Cameroons it forms part of the dowry of a woman at marriage, and should divorce be necessary, the shrimp must also be returned; but not being always obtainable, there is room enough for a good African quarrel among the natives." — *Scientific and Literary Gossip*.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, Minneapolis, Aug. 15-21, 1883.—The attendance on the meeting was rather small, but 300 members participating.

Professor Hunt, of Montreal, for the committee on international congress of geologists, reported that it had held a meeting and had considered two subjects—uniform geological nomenclature and geological cartography. On the first subject it was reported that the committee had conferred with Maj. Powell, director of

¹ Ibid.

the United States Geological Survey, and that he had kindly assisted them, and would furnish geological maps of the United States colored after his own very good system. This was the system which would probably be adopted. On the subject of a common geological nomenclature, the committee reported that it was collecting a mass of suggestions from geologists all over the country, and in a few weeks hoped to be able to send a comprehensive report to the geological congress soon to meet in Berlin.

For the committee appointed to confer with foreign associations with reference to international associations, Professor T. S. Hunt, of Montreal, reported that he had had correspondence with the officials of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. As a result, it had been arranged that that association would hold its next meeting in Montreal at about the same time as the next meeting of this association, and that members of each association would visit the other. The report was accepted and the committee continued to complete the arrangements.

The committee on the exchange of courtesies with foreign associations, consisting of Professors Young, Morse, Mendenhall, Dawson and Hunt, reported in favor of meeting next year in Philadelphia, Sept. 3, in order to accommodate the members of the British Scientific Association, which will meet in Montreal about the same time. The report, with the exception of the date, was accepted and the committee continued, to make arrangements for fraternal intercourse between the associations.

The committee on the question of duty on imported scientific text-books reported that this was a matter for careful consideration, that science belongs to no one country, but is cosmopolitan, and that there ought to be the freest interchange of scientific works between the different countries; that the present arrangement of allowing colleges only to import scientific text-books free is not comprehensive enough, and that the same privilege ought to be extended to students also; that the present standard of scientific text-books in this country is very low, and needs foreign influence to bring it up to the modern standard; that there are published in the United States no abstract technical text-books nor any devoted to pure science, none in foreign languages; that some action should be taken on the matter, but that the committee was not yet prepared to suggest what this action should be. For further consideration of this subject the committee recommended the appointment of a committee of the association, including the president, to present the matter to Congress, and recommended as this committee, Professor Rowland, Gen. Cox, Maj. Powell and Professors Young and Morse, with power to add to their number.

The discussion of this report was introduced by Maj. Powell, who moved that the clause be stricken out which criticised American scientific text-books. He said that on a number of

scientific subjects, such as geology, botany and mathematics, there were text-books by American authors which were equal to any foreign works, and he thought the terms of the report too sweeping. He insisted that in many departments of science there were excellent American text-books. [Applause.]

Professor Mendenhall—I think that the statement of the report is true, except in exceptional cases. I take it that the report does not mean to cover these cases. I approve of the statement.

Maj. Powell—In several departments of a science I am acquainted with the American text-books are best. There are Dana's Geology and the Geology of Le Conte of California, and Gray's Botany, which, in my judgment, are unequaled; and so I might name many other good text-books. I have looked into this matter the more, perhaps, because I am a member of a committee on the introduction of science into the public schools, and my experience teaches me that these works which I have mentioned are not to be equaled elsewhere. [Applause.]

Professor Rowland—I agree with the statement of the committee as far as it relates to my own department of physics, and also to chemistry and mathematics. The statement in these cases is entirely true. We can only raise the standard of American scholarship in these departments by the introduction of foreign works. I know that some text-books on physics in American colleges are fifty years old. As a matter of policy it may be well to strike out the statement, but as a matter of fact the statement is true.

Gen. Cox suggested that the only matter reported for action by the committee was on the appointment of a committee to memorialize Congress, and that this discussion was not germane to that question, which was, "Shall we appoint a committee to memorialize Congress?"

Maj. Powell insisted that if the report of the committee was adopted it would be spread in full on the records as the mind of the association, and would commit the association to that extreme statement.

Dr. Gustave Heinrichs, of Iowa, moved as an amendment that Congress be asked to remit the duties on scientific instruments. As an illustration of how onerous this duty now is, he said that the best hygrometer now to be had is of foreign manufacture, the essential part of which is a human hair. This costs in Europe \$9, and on it the Government collected a tax of \$3, "which," said he "is pretty steep." [Laughter.]

Gen. Cox moved as a substitute that the recommendation of the committee be adopted, and the committee continued.

A member of the standing committee said that in the situation which the association now is, the relation of the American manufacturers, and public and political discussion of the tariff, makes this a vexed question, and that the committee felt that its recom-

mendation should be confined to the subject of text-books for the present. If the association could carry that point, it would then feel encouraged to agitate for free importations of instruments. For the present it was thought best to avoid the danger of political dispute. He moved to lay Dr. Heinrich's motion on the table.

Maj. Powell asked if this would not carry the whole question to the table.

The president ruled in the negative, and the motion was carried, as was also Gen. Cox's substitute.

After the reading in general session of an address on "The Evidence for Evolution found in the history of the extinct Mammalia," by Professor Cope, the association adjourned to meet in Philadelphia in 1884, at a date to correspond with the Montreal meeting of the British Association.

The following list of officers for the Philadelphia meeting, presented by the standing committee, was approved by the association :

President—J. P. Lesley, Philadelphia, Pa.

General secretary—Dr. Alfred Springer, Cincinnati, O.

Assistant general secretary—E. S. Holden, Madison, Wis.

Treasurer—William Lilly, Mauch Chunk, Pa.

Section A—President, H. T. Eddy, Cincinnati; secretary, G. W. Hough, Chicago.

Section B—President, John Trowbridge, Cambridge, Mass.; vice-president, N. D. C. Hodges, Salem, Mass.

Section C—President, John W. Langley, Ann Arbor, Mich.; vice-president, Robert B. Warden, North Bend, O.

Section D—President, R. H. Thurston, Hoboken, N. J.; secretary, J. B. Webb, Ithaca, N. Y.

Section E—President, N. H. Winchell, Minneapolis; secretary, Eugene A. Smith, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Section F—President, E. D. Cope, Philadelphia; secretary, C. E. Bessey, Ames, Ia.

Section G—President, D. J. Wormley, Philadelphia, Pa.; secretary, H. Hitchcock, New York.

Section H—President, E. S. Morse, Salem, Mass.; secretary, W. H. Holmes, Washington, D. C.

Section I—President, John Eaton, Washington, D. C.; secretary, C. W. Smiley, Washington, D. C.

The following papers relating to the natural sciences were read :

SECTION E.

The comparative strength of Minnesota and New England Granites. N. H. Winchell.

On Rhizocarps in the Palæozoic period. J. W. Dawson.

On the microscopic structure of the test of fossil Brachiopoda. James Hall.

Clay pebbles, with an exhibition of specimens from Princetown, Minnesota. N. H. Winchell.

On glacial Cañons. W. J. McGee.

- The life-history of the Niagara river. Julius Pohlman.
 The singing beach of Manchester, Mass. H. C. Bolton and A. A. Julien.
 The equivalent of the New York Waterlime group developed in Iowa. A. S. Tiffany.
 The earth's orographic framework; its seismology and geology. Richard Owen.
 Thermal Belts. J. W. Chickering, Jr.
 On Rensselaeria in the Hamilton group of Pennsylvania, and—
 On a fossil Fish from the Hamilton group of Pennsylvania. E. W. Claypole.
 A new Vertebrate from the St. Louis limestone. Wm. McAdams.
 The "Continental Type," or normal orography and geology of continents. Richard Owen.
 The Minnesota valley in the Ice age. Warren Upham.
 On the ancient Glaciation of North America; its extent, character and teachings. J. S. Newberry.
 Result of explorations of the Glacial boundary between New Jersey and Illinois. G. F. Wright.
 On the Terminal Moraine west of Ohio. T. C. Chamberlin.
 Relation of the Glacial dam at Cincinnati to the terrace in the Upper Ohio and its tributaries. I. C. White.
 Changes in the currents of the ice of the last Glacial epoch in Eastern Minnesota. Warren Upham.
 The Kame rivers of Maine. G. H. Stone.
 Evidences from Southern New England against the Iceberg theory of the Drift. J. D. Dana.
 Animal remains from the Loess and Glacial clays. Wm. McAdams.
 On the eroding power of Ice. J. S. Newberry.
 On the Hamilton sandstone of Middle Pennsylvania. E. W. Claypole.
 The Pre-cambrian rocks of the Alps. T. Sterry Hunt.
 The "Earthquake" at New Madrid, Mo., in 1811, probably not an earthquake. James Macfarlane.
 On the Serpentine of Staten island, New York. T. Sterry Hunt.
 On the genesis and classification of mineral veins. J. S. Newberry.
 On a large Crustacean from the Catskill group of Pennsylvania. E. W. Claypole.

SECTION F.

- Psephenus lecontei*; on the external anatomy of the larva. D. S. Kellicott.
 Parallelism of structure of Maize and Sorghum kernels. E. L. Sturtevant.
 Relation of leaf and root areas; Corn. D. P. Penhallow.
 Note on the present condition of the box huckleberry, *Vaccinium brachycerum*, in Perry county, Pennsylvania. E. W. Claypole.
 Influence of position on seed. E. L. Sturtevant.
 Agricultural botany. E. Lewis Sturtevant.
 Conscious automatism. C. P. Hart.
Mya arenaria; its changes in Pliocene and prehistoric times. E. S. Morse.
 On the structure of the skull in *Diclonius mirabilis*, a Laramie Dinosaurian. E. D. Cope.
 On the Trituberculate type of superior molar, and the origin of the Quadrituberculate. E. D. Cope.
 Pharyngeal respiration in the soft-shelled turtle, *Aspionectes spinifer*. S. H. Gage.
 An abnormal Orchid; *Habernaria hyperborea*. W. R. Dudley.
 Origin of the Flora of the Central New York lake region. W. R. Dudley.
 Periodicity of *Sabbacia angularis*. Miss M. E. Murtfeldt.
 On a new plan of Museum case. E. S. Morse.
 The application of Nitrous Oxide and Air to produce Anæsthesia, with clinics on animals in an experimental air chamber. E. P. Howland.
 Development of a dandelion flower. J. M. Coulter.
 Leaves of the Gramineæ with closed sheaths. W. J. Beal.
 A supposed poisonous seaweed in the lakes of Minnesota. J. C. Arthur.
 The position of the Compositæ in the natural system. Joseph F. James.
 On the use of vaseline to prevent the loss of alcohol from specimen jars. B. G. Wilder and S. H. Gage.
 On two primitive types of Ungulata. E. D. Cope.

- Note on Phytoptidæ. Herbert Osborn.
 Note on the potato beetle and Hessian fly for 1883. E. W. Claypole.
 Oyster farming in Connecticut. H. C. Hovey.
 The Psyllidæ of the United States. C. V. Riley.
 Some recent discoveries in reference to Phylloxera. C. V. Riley.
 Observations on Cephalopoda. A. Hyatt.

SECTION H.

- Indoor games of the Japanese. E. S. Morse.
 The great mounds of Cahokia. Wm. McAdams.
 Life among the Mohawks in the Catholic missions of Quebec province. Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith.
 Metrical standard of the Mound-builders—by the method of even divisors. Chas. Whittlesey.
 The Mound-builders identified. John Campbell.
 An abnormal human skull from a stone grave in Tennessee. F. W. Putnam.
 Typical shapes among the Emblematic mounds. The different attitudes exhibited by the same animal. S. D. Peet.
 Personal observations of the Missouri river mounds from Omaha to St. Louis; considered from a geological standpoint. Their invariable association with the Loess and Terrace formation. E. P. West.
 Osage war customs. J. O. Dorsey.
 Symbolic earth formation. Mrs. A. C. Fletcher.
 Some observations on the laws and privileges of the Gens in Indian society. Mrs. A. C. Fletcher.
 An ancient village of the emblematic Mound-builders. Caches guarded by effigies. Effigies guarding the village, and sacrificial places not far away. S. D. Peet.
 The Charnay collection at Washington. O. T. Mason.
 A new stand for mounting skulls, by E. E. Chick. F. W. Putnam.
 Accidents or mode signs of verbs in the Iroquois dialects. Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith.
 The correspondence between the prehistoric map of North America and the system of social development. S. D. Peet.
 Kitchens of the East. E. S. Morse.
 Methods of arrow release. E. S. Morse.
 Game drives among the Emblematic mounds. S. D. Peet.
 Studies in the Iroquois concerning the verb *to be* and its substitutes. Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith.
 High places connected with ancient villages; the religious structures common to villages in prehistoric time. S. D. Peet.
 Vestiges of glacial man in Central Minnesota. Miss F. E. Babbitt.
 A classification of the Sciences. J. W. Powell.

SECTION I.

- The German carp and its introduction into the United States. C. W. Smiley.
 Cable cars for city passenger traffic. E. T. Cox.
 Building Associations. Edgar Frisby.
 Health Foods. Stephen S. Haight.
 Improved method of spraying fruit and shade trees for protection against leaf-eating insects. C. V. Riley.
 Enhancement of values in agriculture by reason of non-agricultural population. J. R. Dodge.
 A new system for the treatment of sewer gas. T. E. Jefferson.
 Life insurance and self-insurance. Elizur Wright.
 The increase of the colored population of the United States. C. S. Mixter.
 The German carp and its introduction into the United States. C. W. Smiley.
 Sotol, a Texan forage plant. Clifford Richardson.